

Robinson-Aiken Cow House
48 Elizabeth Street
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-274

HABS
SC
10-CHAR
177A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Revised Series of Unrecorded Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ROBINSON-AIKEN COW HOUSE

HABS No. SC-274

Address: 48 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, Charleston County,
South Carolina.

Present Owner: I'On Lowndes Rhett, 48 Elizabeth Street, Charleston,
South Carolina

Brief Statement of Significance: A rare example of its type with notable architectural
character.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners:
John Robinson, original owner, bought the land in 1817.
(Charleston County Mesne Conveyance Office, vol. V-8, p. 393
[longhand]). He sold house in 1826 to William Aiken, Charles
Edmonston and Lewis A. Pitray. (Ibid. vol. T-9, p. 238).
Governor William Aiken lived here and the house went to his
daughter, Mrs. A. Burnet Rhett. (Information from Mrs. I'On
Lowndes Rhett).
- B. Date of Erection: Circa 1840.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

At one time there were cow houses at the east and west ends of a transverse axis in the garden, but very little remains of the one at the east. The western one appears complete except that it lacks a roof. It is rectangular in plan, about 10' x 14', and is constructed of brick. The east front has a central pier and corner piers, with two elliptical brick arches, within which are four-centered arched openings. A projecting brick course forms the impost. Above the arches is a parapet. The north and south ends each have a single opening, of a design similar to those on the east front; the garden wall forms the fourth side. It appears that this structure had an earth floor, and accommodated two animals.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
August 1962.

Addendum to:

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